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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

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| | | Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220 | | FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below |
| International application No PCT/EP2004/010877 | International filing date (day/month/year) 27.09.2004 | Priority date (day/month/year) 26.09.2003 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G06F17/30 | | |
| Applicant UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER | | |

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis 1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2 **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66 1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220

3 For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220

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| Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office - Gitschner Str 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840 | Authorized Officer Nazzaro, A Telephone No. +49 30 25901-403 |
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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITYInternational application No.
PCT/EP2004/010877

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/010877

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 1-18 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | 1-18 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-18 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1 Reference is made to the following document:
D1: US 2003/065635 A1 (SAHAMI MEHRAN ET AL) 3 April 2003 (2003-04-03)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):

A method of determining cluster attractors for a plurality of documents, each document comprising at least one term, the method comprising: calculating, in respect of each term, a probability distribution indicative of the frequency of occurrence of the, or each, other term that co-occurs with said term in at least one of said documents [see abstract, figure 5, paragraphs 57-84 and formulas 1-3];

From this, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 differs in that:

calculating, in respect of each term, the entropy of the respective probability distribution; selecting at least one of said probability distributions as a cluster attractor depending on the respective entropy value.

2.1 The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT)
The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as:

how to achieve better clustering of a corpus of documents.

2.2 The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

None of the available documents discloses the differing feature.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-12 AND 15-17

Claims 2-12 and 15-17 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

4 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 13 AND 18

Independent claims 13 and 18 define the computer program product corresponding to the method of claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

5 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 14

Independent claim 14 defines the apparatus for determining cluster attractors corresponding to the method of claim 1 and as such also meets the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.